

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-20, 23-27, 29, and 31-33 are pending. Claims 3, 7, 8, 21, 22, 28, and 30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

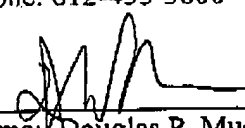
Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 8 and intervening claim 3. Claim 12 was indicated to be allowable, and has been rewritten in independent form with limitations of original claims 1, 3, 5 and 11. Part of claim 2 has been included as well for clarity. Allowable claims 16-18 and 20 have been rewritten as independent claims with the limitations of original claim 1. Claim 31 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 30 and intervening claim 28. Claim 31 was indicated to be allowable, and has been rewritten in independent form with the limitations of original claims 23 and 28. As all of the independent claims now pending include subject matter considered to be allowable, the issues raised in the Office Action are moot. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejections.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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